



# Connecting People to Their Public Lands 2015

An Update on BLM Education, Interpretation, Volunteer, and Youth Employment Activities





*The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity,  
and productivity of America's public lands for the use  
and enjoyment of present and future generations.*



"Connecting People to Their Public Lands 2015" is a publication of the Bureau of Land Management's Division of Education, Interpretation, and Partnerships. Design, layout, editing, and printing services were provided by the BLM National Operations Center in Denver, CO.

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management, I am pleased to present "Connecting People to Their Public Lands 2015". This report summarizes the many ways the BLM engages youth and adults with opportunities to have fun in the outdoors, learn about science and careers, and volunteer or work as stewards of our treasured landscapes and resources.

The BLM is committed at every level of the organization to establishing meaningful connections between people, especially younger generations, and the great outdoors. Thanks to strong participation at the state, district, and field levels, the BLM's collective outreach efforts during fiscal year 2014 reached more than 4.6 million Americans! For example:

- An estimated 4.3 million visitors enjoyed guided activities, living history tours, exhibits, and other interpretive programming on BLM lands.
- More than 284,000 people of all ages experienced the great outdoors through BLM's outdoor classroom activities and hands-on educational programs.
- Over 32,000 volunteers donated \$27.8 million in labor to help the BLM maintain recreation trails, protect archaeological sites, restore riparian areas, and much more.
- More than 3,100 youth hired by the BLM removed invasive species, monitored water quality, improved wildlife habitat, and completed a host of other critical resource projects.

This report offers a small sampling of the many ways the BLM works to connect people of all ages to the land and inspires them to play, learn, serve, and work outdoors. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of parents, teachers, volunteers, and partner groups across the nation. Together, the BLM and our partners are promoting active stewardship of public lands and laying the foundation to continue this tradition for generations to come.

Neil Kornze





# NATIONAL SUMMARY



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a long tradition of connecting people of all ages to their public lands. In March of 2014, the Secretary of the Interior's goal of "engaging the next generation" expanded this tradition and brought renewed attention to reaching out to young people, the future stewards of public lands. The initiative has four pillars: it calls upon the BLM and other Department of the Interior agencies to strengthen and increase opportunities for people to **PLAY** on public lands through recreation and outdoor activities, to **LEARN** about these lands through education and interpretation programs, to **SERVE** as volunteers and active stewards of the land, and to **WORK** on public lands and pursue natural resource careers. This report documents the range of opportunities the BLM offered in fiscal year 2014 for youth—as well as for families, educators, and the general public—to play, learn, serve, and work on their public lands. Together with its partners, the BLM can engage today's generations to help ensure a bright future for public lands.

## PLAY

The BLM's **Take It Outside!** program encourages young people and their families to have fun outdoors and participate in informal learning and stewardship opportunities on public lands. In 2014, the BLM engaged almost 83,000 youth and family members in nearly 750 different activities, including rafting, archaeology hikes, bird counts, day camps, and free fishing days. Some youth even spent their first night outdoors under the stars during overnight camps or touched a horse for their first time at a wild horse event.

The mission of the BLM's **stewardship program** is to build appreciation of public lands by connecting people and the land together through outdoor experiences, education, and volunteerism. The BLM has partnered with two organizations—Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly!—for more than two decades to help promote stewardship and teach outdoor ethics to BLM staff







and public land visitors. In 2014, 14 BLM staff members completed a 5-day training session to become Leave No Trace Master Educators. More than 90 Take It Outside! activities included Tread Lightly! or Leave No Trace outdoor ethics education, helping to ensure that participants recreate responsibly. Additionally, volunteers of all ages provided thousands of hours of their time to clear trails, pick up litter, and build structures. Engaging children and youths in volunteer activities helps build lifelong stewards of public lands.

The BLM relies on **youth partner groups** for support and funding to help provide outdoor play experiences for kids and families across the nation. In 2014, the BLM partnered with more than 600 organizations, businesses, and youth groups such as the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Boys and Girls Clubs, and National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Organization to engage youth in outdoor play, informal education, and volunteer activities. These generous partners contributed over 20,250 hours of time and over \$500,000 in cash and in-kind donations. The combination of volunteer hours and donations more than matched the BLM's investment of 17,200 staff hours and \$340,000 in funds. These additional partner resources greatly enhanced the BLM's efforts to encourage youth and families to explore the outdoors and develop active stewards of public lands.

## LEARN

Educational programs and interpretation programs are essential for the BLM to achieve its mission of sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands. Public lands are significant resources for engaging learners of all ages about their cultural heritage and the natural world in which they live.

## Education

**Hands on the Land** is a national network of field classrooms that connects students, teachers, and community volunteers to America's public lands. Public and nonprofit partners work with the BLM to customize hands-on experiences using local, natural, historical, and archaeological settings that bring classroom learning to life. As a result, students form strong connections to the natural environment, learn about issues confronting 21st-century land managers, and become familiar with natural resource careers. In 2014, the BLM recruited 14 new Hands on the Land sites, for a total of 54 sites nationwide. Together, these sites hosted 1,353 days of outdoor classroom activities that engaged nearly 61,000 students, teachers, and parents.

In 2014, the BLM partnered with the University of Colorado Denver to launch a new initiative called the **Teachers on the Public Lands program**. Ten teacher "interns" spent their summer breaks at Hands on the Land sites in their local communities, where they engaged in site education projects; observed BLM resource management first-hand; and developed lesson plans that BLM employees, teachers, and community volunteers can use in the future. The teacher-staff partnerships strengthened connections between the BLM and local schools and resulted in the development of lesson plans on such topics as climate change, marine biology, native plants, soils, hydrology, and riparian habitats. Efforts are underway to share these plans with other teachers nationwide through the Hands on the Land website at [www.handsontheland.org](http://www.handsontheland.org).







Through a partnership between the BLM and Montana State University, the heritage education program, **Project Archaeology**, provided professional development workshops and high-quality educational materials for 1,086 educators in 2014. During the workshops, schoolteachers learned ways to incorporate archaeology activities in their classrooms to teach a variety of subjects such as math, science, and critical thinking. The curriculum centers on a stewardship message of protecting the rich cultural resources found on America's public lands, such as ancient Indian ruins and World War II remains. Project Archaeology-trained teachers reached an estimated 25,350 learners in 2014. To increase the teacher training capacity, the BLM completed a series of professional development videos, which are available on the Project Archaeology website and included as a DVD with each curriculum guide. The fifth annual Project Archaeology Leadership Academy increased the program's

cadre of master teachers to 75 people and its network of state and regional programs to serve 36 states and the District of Columbia.

In addition to the Hands on the Land and Project Archaeology programs, the BLM offers a suite of **additional education programs**. In 2014, BLM biologists, botanists, and other resource specialists from 150 state, district, and field offices reached 128,000 students and adults, helping to connect them to their public lands. These efforts included classroom presentations, onsite activities and tours, and BLM-hosted collegiate field schools. In rural areas, BLM scientists served as valued role models, acting as judges for science fairs and advising students attending career days. Field offices provided service learning opportunities to students and youth groups. In addition to site-based teacher training at places such as Nevada's Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, the BLM sponsored training by such partners as Watchable Wildlife and the Izaak Walton League.

In 2014, the BLM produced two new teaching guides for grades 6–12 called "Native Plants" and "Wilderness." The guides provide information to students about resource management issues such as preventing invasive plant encroachments and balancing multiple use with sustained yield. The guides are part of the new Classroom Investigation Series, which gives teachers tools to engage their students in activities on topics affecting public lands.





## Interpretation

The BLM's **interpretation program** strives to connect visitors to America's public lands through information, orientation, and inspiration. Interpretation supports the BLM's mission by providing opportunities for enjoyable and meaningful visitor experiences as well as building interest in the public lands and their management. In 2014, more than 4.3 million visitors at 160 sites and venues experienced interpretive programs and demonstrations, walking tours, guided activities, wayside kiosks, exhibits, films, websites, and social media.

The BLM recognized two outstanding employees with the 2014 **Excellence in Interpretation or Education Award** for programs they developed to enhance the public's understanding of public lands and the BLM's mission of multiple use and sustained yield. The winners were Roy Simpson of BLM Oregon's Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area and Kierson Crume of BLM Wyoming's Cody Field Office. Both winners received an invitation to the National Association for Interpretation's National Workshop in Denver, Colorado, where they accepted their awards from the BLM's Colorado State Director, Ruth Welch.

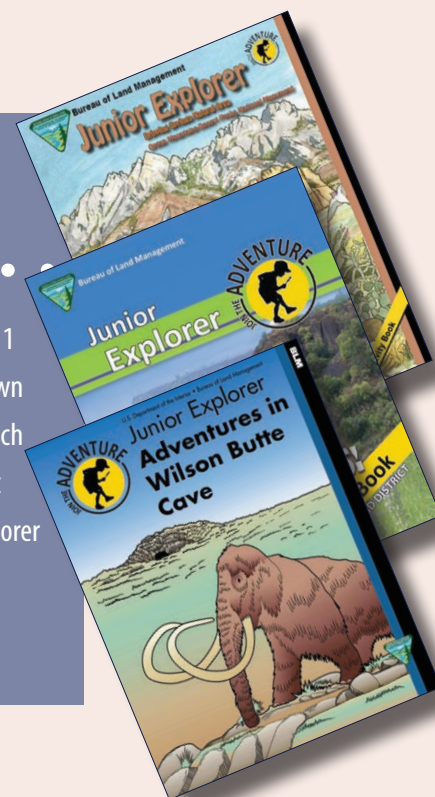
During 2014, BLM state and field offices produced 11 new **Junior Explorer** activity guides. These kid-friendly booklets highlighted BLM sites in Arizona, California,



Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon. The BLM also helped produce the interagency Wilderness Explorer booklet that was distributed to field offices in advance of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Wilderness Act. Currently, 42 booklets are available in the Junior Explorer series, with more expected in 2015.

## MANY WAYS TO EXPLORE PUBLIC LANDS!

The Junior Explorer guides provide engaging educational activities for parents and children ages 8–11 about the lands and resources that the BLM manages. Children can complete the activities at their own pace and can learn about natural and cultural resources, science, history, animals, dinosaurs, and much more. At the same time, children develop an understanding of why it is important to conserve public lands and their resources. In 2014, BLM state and field offices created nearly a dozen new Junior Explorer booklets. Covers of some of these new booklets are shown here. To download copies of the Junior Explorer booklets, visit the BLM website at [www.blm.gov/education](http://www.blm.gov/education).





The BLM **Artist-in-Residence Program** provides opportunities for artists to paint, photograph, and produce other creative works about exceptional places on public lands. The program seeks to promote dialogue about the value of preserving treasured landscapes. In 2014, the BLM hosted 13 artists at 9 sites in 6 states—from the White Mountains of Alaska to the canyons of Colorado and Utah. Artists exhibited their work in Reno, Nevada; Anchorage, Alaska; and Boise, Idaho to share the beauty of the pieces, to inspire the creative spirit in all of us, and to create a deeper, more heartfelt understanding of the public lands that the BLM manages.

## BLM PROGRAM INSPIRES THE ARTIST AND CAPTURES THE HEART

The BLM Artist-in-Residence Program encourages a new awareness of the exceptional places on public lands through art. The BLM provides opportunities for artists to use their talents to interpret the resources at the heart of the BLM's mission. The artists create images, objects, and performances that bring others enjoyment and a deeper understanding of the treasured landscapes and features on public lands.

Artists spend a minimum of 1 week exploring the unique landscapes and then use artistic media to share their perceptions and insights with others. Though the residency includes at least one public program, many of the artists exhibit their work at other venues, multiplying the opportunities to share their creations—and the public lands—with a greater audience, which may include people who have never visited these exceptional places.

Each year a panel selects a work of art from the previous year's residencies as the subject for a national poster. Artist Lewis Williams received the distinction for the 2013 poster for his "Sleeping Ute Awakes," which celebrates Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado. Williams chose a unique portrayal of the monument's skyline to highlight the landscape, explaining, "I learned the power of wilderness. I am drawn to elements in nature that struggle against other elements, as archetypes of resilience, with a sanctity in being just what they are made to be."



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Artist-in-Residence Program 2013

Taking Public Lands to Heart



[www.blm.gov/education](http://www.blm.gov/education)



# SERVE

As America's largest land manager, the BLM relies on thousands of volunteers who offer their time and service to the nation's natural and cultural resources. The BLM **volunteer program** engaged more than 32,000 volunteers in 2014. Volunteer contributions exceeded 1.2 million hours or the equivalent of 671 work years. This service has an estimated value of nearly \$28 million to the BLM. Volunteers contribute their time, services, and skills to a wide variety of BLM program areas including recreation, wild horses and burros, cultural/historical resources, and environmental education/interpretation. In 2014, about one-third of the hours occurred at national monuments, national conservation areas, national wild and scenic rivers, and other units of the BLM's National Conservation Lands. These volunteer contributions are crucial to the work the BLM does every day across the nation.



improvements valued at more than \$1 million and a return on investment of at least 5:1.



**National Public Lands Day** is the nation's premiere public lands volunteer workday. National Public Lands Day events also support the America's Great Outdoors, Let's Move, and Take It Outside! initiatives. In 2014, marking the 21st year of the event, the BLM coordinated 247 projects at 133 BLM sites hosted by 88 field offices in 16 states. Almost 9,000 volunteers participated in BLM enhancement and restoration activities, producing

In May 2014, the BLM presented its **"Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards** to five individuals, one couple, two groups, and one BLM employee for their public service contributions on BLM-managed lands. These award winners ranged in age from the teens to the late 80s, and they served thousands of hours across the country. The selected were:

- **Mark Kreider**, Anchorage District Office, Alaska (Outstanding Youth Award)
- **Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy**, Jupiter Inlet Outstanding Natural Area, Florida (Outstanding Youth Award)
- **Stan Shaw**, Yuma Field Office, Arizona (Outstanding Achievement Award)
- **Dr. Jack Hailman**, Jupiter Inlet Outstanding Natural Area, Florida (Outstanding Achievement Award)
- **Verna Pratt**, Campbell Creek Science Center, Alaska (Lifetime Achievement Award)
- **Mark Hesse**, Monticello Field Office, Utah (Lifetime Achievement-Posthumous Award)
- **Floyd and Opal Jensen**, Salem District Office, Oregon (Lifetime Achievement Award)
- **Friends of Pompeys Pillar**, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, Montana (Lifetime Achievement Award)
- **Rob Sweeten**, Utah State Office, Utah (the winning BLM employee)



# WORK

The BLM provides work and training opportunities for young people, ages 15–25, to learn about and pursue careers in natural resource management. In fiscal year 2014, the BLM employed 1,350 youths on the payroll. Additionally, the BLM worked with national, state, and local partners to engage an additional 1,790 youths in projects benefiting virtually all BLM resource programs. More than 150 partners were involved, including schools, youth-serving agencies, environmental and research institutions, and youth corps organizations, such as members of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC). Grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists program and from the Department of the

Interior provided additional, welcome support for 21CSC programs and projects in 2014.

Thanks to a dedicated BLM staff committed to engaging the next generation and to innovative and enthusiastic partners, youth crews and interns participated in a wide range of short-term and long-term projects. They repaired and maintained trails and recreation facilities, helping to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for increasing numbers of public land visitors. They assessed and addressed the impacts of wildland fire and helped restore wildlife habitat by removing invasive weeds, collecting seeds, and planting native species. They also monitored water quality and riparian health. These projects are just a few of the many ways in which the BLM achieves its resource management goals while creating the next generation of conservation stewards and leaders.





## PROGRESS REPORT ON NATIONAL STRATEGY

The BLM is committed to engaging youth, families, and adults in effective ways. Toward that end, in 2013 the BLM developed a comprehensive 5-year strategy to strengthen and expand its education, interpretation, and youth engagement programs. The strategy lays out a vision, framework, and key benchmarks to increase program growth and value to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

In 2014, the first year of the implementation plan, the BLM enhanced the institutional foundation of its outreach efforts. Here are some of the key first-year accomplishments:

- Formalized communication channels among national, state, and field personnel to develop a coordinated approach and share best practices.
- Developed draft competencies in education and interpretation to improve the quality of program delivery nationwide.
- Strengthened communication efforts to expand and enhance the Take It Outside! programs for youth and families.
- Conducted an inventory of all current programming for teens and young adults to determine new and more effective ways to engage these audiences.
- Completed an assessment to identify the additional tools and resources needed to support the delivery of programs on the ground.
- Developed a desk guide to increase participation in the Hands on the Land network of outdoor classrooms and to provide administrative guidance to Hands on the Land site managers.
- Established two new state programs to expand the use of Project Archaeology curricula through teacher training, support from archaeologists, and maintenance of a sustainable community of practice.
- Issued guidance on legal authorities that can be used to hire youth.
- Began state-level implementation of state strategy plans, each tied to the national strategy, and made significant progress in first-year commitments.

In future years, the BLM will continue to strengthen the capacity of its staff, volunteers, and partners to develop and deliver quality programs, especially for young people. With careful and strategic steps, the BLM program staff hopes to build a strong foundation of future stewards of the public lands.





# ALASKA

## By the Numbers

Program Participants	216,582
Volunteer Hours	80,718
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$1,862,164
Youth Hires	198



With its 70 million acres of BLM land, Alaska represents an immense outdoor classroom full of opportunities for people to play, learn, serve, and work on public lands. Last year, thanks to the BLM and its partners, the public viewed Iditarod mushers whooshing through the trails of Campbell Tract in Anchorage. They experienced the beautiful artwork of BLM's Artist-in-Residence, who captured images of the wilderness while spending 2 weeks in a winter cabin. And they discovered the unique interpretive programs and learned vital safety information at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center on the Dalton Highway.

The Campbell Creek Science Center and its partners offered school programs on energy and minerals, early morning bird walks for visitors, special bear safety events, and training for teachers along the Iditarod Trail. Thanks to the support of the Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center, the staff increased its outreach to underserved audiences, for example, by developing a program to introduce refugee children to the outdoors of Alaska. In Fairbanks, Glennallen, and villages in rural Alaska, the BLM worked closely with local communities to offer youth hikes, lessons on outdoor skills, citizen science, and environmental field courses. All

efforts combined, the BLM reached 216,582 schoolchildren, teachers, and visitors across the state last year.

In other outreach efforts, volunteers contributed nearly \$1.9 million in stewardship service to BLM Alaska projects and lands, including recreation trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and development of a climate change curriculum for schoolchildren. The BLM hired 198 young adults in Alaska to conduct fish studies and soil surveys, collect native plant seeds, produce brochures for Japanese tourists, maintain Iditarod shelter cabins, and assist with other resource-related projects.

Laura Vachula, an intern with the Student Conservation Association, created a promotional YouTube video highlighting the Campbell Creek Science Center's educational programs. "This video is a wonderful illustration of the power of engaging children in nature," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "Thanks to the BLM in Alaska for showing the way, making it happen, and for giving all of us inspiration! I know your teammates across the country are making great use of our best classrooms—the ones with no walls." To see the video, go to [www.blm.gov/ak/youth](http://www.blm.gov/ak/youth).

*Read on for a sample of more ways that BLM Alaska engaged citizens of all ages in 2014.*





## PLAY

### Kids Angle for Cool Prizes

With prizes, laughter, and hot chocolate, it was easy to become “hooked on fishing” during the Family Ice Fishing Day at Silver Lake. More than 100 attendees enjoyed spending time in the outdoors with their families in April. BLM employees and principal partners, such as Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, taught youth how to auger a hole in the ice, set up an ice fishing pole, work the reels, and drop a line. Anglers of all ages landed dozens of rainbow trout measuring up to 2 feet. They also viewed fish from an underwater camera, learned how biologists use sonar to manage fishery resources, and learned how to handle fish humanely. These lessons aren’t for a day; they’re for a lifetime!



## SERVE

### Wildflower Expert Earns Lifetime Achievement Award

There is no stronger advocate for Alaska native plants than BLM volunteer Verna Pratt. For more than 20 years, Verna has led wildflower walks and talks on the BLM Campbell Tract, where 40,000 visitors use the science center and recreation trails each year. Verna also helped plan and construct many of the native wildflower gardens at the science center, which continue to impress visitors with their radiant colors. She has often provided advice to the BLM on which native plant species to use for revegetation projects, as well as mentored other volunteers on creek and forest restoration projects. On almost every National Public Lands Day, Verna has rolled up her sleeves to weed, water, and maintain the science center’s gardens. To honor her dedication and service, the BLM recognized Verna in May with the “Making a Difference” National Volunteer Award for Lifetime Achievement.



## LEARN

### Young Scientists Explore Campbell Creek

Fresh out of Campbell Creek, trout and juvenile salmon became an instant lesson in comparative anatomy for fourth grade students attending the annual Water Discovery Days on the BLM Campbell Tract, a 730-acre parcel of land that’s home to the Anchorage District Office and the Campbell Creek Science Center. Thanks to help from many of the science center’s partner organizations, Water Discovery Days provided 800 students the opportunity to explore the connections among aquatic insects, salmon, and people. The students also learned how humans depend on healthy streams and oceans to survive.



## WORK

### Youth Crew Builds Sustainable Trails

Thanks to the hard work of a Student Conservation Association youth crew, the BLM rehabilitated a 2-mile section of the Jack River Trail, located 4 miles east of Cantwell, Alaska. The trail is an easement on Native corporation land and is popular with all-terrain vehicle riders wanting to access public lands. The youth crew installed plastic panels at key points along the trail and performed other maintenance work to reduce pooling of water, trail braiding, and vegetation stripping. Not only did the crew members learn effective trail building techniques, but they also constructed a more sustainable trail that can now accommodate heavy use without damaging the surrounding vegetation.



# ARIZONA



## By the Numbers

Program Participants	123,938
Volunteer Hours	155,466
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$3,586,601
Youth Hires	124

In 2014, BLM Arizona offered citizens many opportunities to explore the outdoors, learn about natural and cultural resources, and contribute to the stewardship of the BLM's public lands.

Through Take It Outside! programs, BLM employees organized desert hikes near Kingman to provide children and adults with plant identification skills and information about local wildlife and geology. The Friends of Agua Fria National Monument sponsored hikes and an educational tour of geologic formations. The Yuma Field Office, in partnership with the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge and Arizona Conservation Corps, conducted a class about global positioning systems and geographic information systems for students from Gila Ridge High School. At the interagency Catfish Rodeo in Yuma, nearly 500 kids learned about fishing and panned for gold.

Many educators seized the opportunity to work with the BLM at Hands on the Land sites in 2014. At Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, the Youth in Wilderness program for tribal students combined science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with Native American cultural components. In Phoenix, the Audubon Arizona's River Pathways program provided inner city high school students with in-class and field-based environmental science education.

BLM employees also used interpretive presentations to connect with communities throughout the state, whether at small local meetings or at large group gatherings of off-highway vehicle riders or archaeology buffs. These efforts, combined with numerous outreach events, such as the annual Game and Fish Expo and the Back to School and Health Fair, enabled BLM Arizona to reach 123,938 participants in 2014.

Volunteers contributed more than 155,000 hours to BLM Arizona in 2014, valued at more than \$3.5 million. They helped inform visitors by installing kiosks along off-highway vehicle trails and at campgrounds. At Sophie's Flat near Wickenburg, volunteers improved popular hiking and equestrian trails, learning from the experts how "rolling dips" can keep water off the trail. Youth crews from numerous organizations did their share of trail maintenance as well, while other crews helped with fence projects, trash cleanups, invasive species removal, and river monitoring. Tribal interns assisted with a wide range of cultural projects at Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument as well as with cadastral and wildlife projects in several offices. In total, BLM Arizona hired 124 young people on the payroll and through partners in 2014.

*Following are a few of the many ways BLM Arizona enhanced the connection between the American people and the public lands.*





## PLAY

### Children Fling Atlatls at “Day in the Desert”

What began as one teacher’s inspiration several years ago has grown into a biannual “Day in the Desert” for middle schoolers in northern Arizona and southern Utah. The BLM and numerous partners held this outdoor educational event in both the fall and spring in 2014 at several locations throughout the region. At the BLM’s Virgin River Gorge Recreation Area, sixth and seventh graders “lassoed” lizards for further study, engaged in archaeological classification, learned about plants on a botany hike, and tried the ancient art of throwing atlatls. While the program is tied to school curricula, parent chaperones also received their own public lands education. As one of them said, “I never knew this place existed. I’ll bring the whole family here now.”



## LEARN

### High School Students Monitor Fish

Thanks to the BLM’s longstanding partnerships with the Phoenix Union High School District and Audubon Arizona, 15 students from Camelback High School conducted field-monitoring exercises in Agua Fria National Monument. Students applied monitoring techniques adapted from various riparian monitoring protocols. The techniques included recording woody species along transects, conducting pebble counts, and seining fish. Students also learned about the native fish species, such as the Longfin dace and desert sucker, and the endangered Gila chub, desert pupfish, and Gila topminnow. In 2014, nearly 600 students from the school district participated in the multifaceted program, which involved both an in-class environmental science curriculum and field experiences.



## SERVE

### Long-Time Volunteer Makes a Big Difference

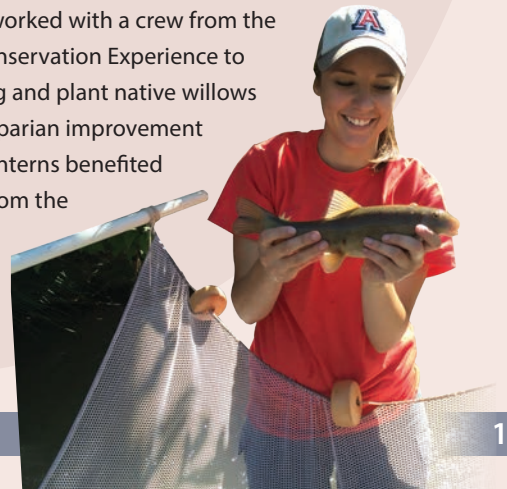
As in many states, the recreation program in Arizona benefits substantially from the service of volunteers. Stan Shaw, a winner of the 2014’s “Making a Difference” National Volunteer Awards, demonstrated how important that service can be. Since 2007, Stan has volunteered with the Yuma Field Office, helping to improve operations and correct environmental deficiencies at La Posita Long Term Visitor Area. In 2014, he helped clear abandoned vehicles and litter from public lands as well as worked with the BLM’s fire prevention staff to construct public advisory “Smokey Bear” signs that notify the public about wildland fire and hazardous conditions. Stan also helped save energy at the visitor area by expanding the use of high-efficiency light bulbs, researching energy-efficient heaters, and overseeing the installation of these new heaters in the contact stations.



## WORK

### College Interns Protect Native Plants and Fish

Working through several partner organizations, the Safford Field Office and Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area provided work and training opportunities for nearly 40 young people in 2014. Conservation Land Management interns from the Chicago Botanic Garden removed nonnative fish from Bonita Creek to benefit threatened and endangered native fish. They also collected and sprouted native plant seeds as part of the Seeds of Success and Native Plant Materials Development Program. Interns also worked with a crew from the American Conservation Experience to install fencing and plant native willows as part of a riparian improvement project. The interns benefited immensely from the diverse array of hands-on field experiences.





# CALIFORNIA

## By the Numbers

Program Participants	804,897
Volunteer Hours	238,812
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$5,509,393
Youth Hires	375

The BLM offered young people and adults amazing opportunities to connect with the public lands in California in 2014. Children hunted for scorpions at night in the desert, “moved in the dunes” along the coast, and painted wilderness murals along Route 66. Junior Explorer booklets introduced young visitors and their families to off-highway vehicle safety and ethics near Barstow and to the beauty of California Coastal National Monument near Trinidad. BLM staff introduced young campers from Los Angeles to the wonders of nature and helped people of all ages connect to the great outdoors through numerous outreach events during the year.

Representatives from the BLM and Sacramento State University joined more than 200 “youth influencers” at the third annual youth summit in November to connect youth to the outdoors, foster an appreciation for natural resources, and promote related career opportunities. Thanks to the Hands on the Land program, students learned about the ecology of Headwaters Forest Reserve and explored local history at the former lumber mill town of Falk. At Fish Slough, second graders discovered diverse life forms teeming in a scoopful of mud, while their fourth grade friends sketched petroglyphs and flung atlatls. Through the Teachers on the Public Lands program, a high school teacher helped students at Atwell Island practice using the scientific method when conducting weekly observations of native plants.



Volunteers donated nearly 239,000 hours to BLM California, contributing more than \$5.5 million in labor. They conducted BLM education programs and removed invasive plants in numerous locations. Led by a BLM Pathways intern, student volunteers from Chico State University surveyed archaeological features in the northeastern part of the state. And near Bishop, skilled volunteers helped stabilize a historic mill.

The BLM hired 375 young adults in California in 2014. Crews from the California Conservation Corps cleared brush to improve scenic redwood vistas near Arcata, while the Student Conservation Association’s WildCorps worked in wilderness areas throughout the state. Interns from the Great Basin Institute and Chicago Botanic Garden worked with BLM mentors to assist with a variety of native plant and wildlife studies. Diverse partnerships—including those with Grant High School and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians—provided additional work opportunities for young people, helping to ensure a well-trained and diverse workforce for the 21st century in California.

*Read on for a sample of more ways that BLM California engaged youths and adults on public lands in 2014.*





## PLAY

### Youth Come Alive in the Great Outdoors

Outdoor Adventures provided through the Youth Alive! program offered numerous opportunities, such as backpacking, hiking, mountain biking, and exploring tidepools, for youth to discover King Range National Conservation Area. The Youth Alive! program promotes stewardship of the nation's natural resources through free outdoor activities for youth ages 11–19. In 2014, youth learned what they needed to feel confident in exploring the outdoors, such as Leave No Trace principles, and created lasting personal relationships with the natural world. The program also helped returning participants improve their leadership skills, as staff encouraged these youth to lead activities and team-building games. Community partners, including the Lost Coast Interpretive Association, helped support this Take It Outside! program.



## LEARN

### Visitors “Take It Outside” at the Los Angeles County Fair

For 23 days in September, the BLM and other agencies provided activity stations at the America's Great Outdoors exhibit at the Los Angeles County Fair. The stations included a replica of the General Land Office, a real historical fire lookout tower, and a re-created Native American village. Visitors met animal ambassadors from the wild horse and burro program and walked along a



Leave No Trace challenge course. They also made environmental buttons, learned about off-highway vehicle safety, and played GO Wild Wilderness games in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Through hard work and long hours, the staff and volunteers successfully introduced the great outdoors to 1.2 million fair visitors in 2014.



## SERVE

### Many Hands Restore Historic Cabin Site

Even the youngest volunteers carried their weight during the National Public Lands Day event at Keyesville Special Recreation Management Area along the Kern River east of Bakersfield. Volunteers restored the historic Walker Cabin, the homestead of Joseph Walker, a man who led one of John C. Fremont's expeditions in 1834. Volunteers also moved a brick retaining wall to restore a more accurate setting for the historic cabin, cleaned up the landscape, and removed debris.



## WORK

### Veterans and Volunteers Join Forces to Improve Trails

An all-veterans California Conservation Corps crew converged on Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument in 2014 on a mission to improve parts of three popular hiking trails. A grant from Edison International to the Conservation Lands Foundation helped support the crew in tackling more than 10 miles of trail during the 4-week project. The crew improved accessibility for visitors by clearing brush and boulders, repairing trail berms, and making other improvements designed to stop erosion. More than 20 volunteers from the Friends of the Desert Mountains and Desert Trails Hiking Club joined forces with the veterans crew for a 1-day project as well.





# COLORADO

## By the Numbers

Program Participants	429,925
Volunteer Hours	193,191
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$4,456,916
Youth Hires	292

BLM Colorado manages 8.3 million acres of public lands, mostly in the western part of the state. Across this vast landscape there are plentiful areas for fun and recreation as well as great opportunities for education and cultural awareness.

In 2014, the BLM offered educational and interpretive programs to nearly 430,000 citizens across Colorado. BLM employees actively promoted the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act through educational outreach and social media. Through the Hands on the Land program, BLM staff from Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area partnered with local school districts to offer teacher workshops, river rafting trips for high school students, and lessons in geology and backcountry Leave No Trace principles. In other parts of the state, BLM staff led field trips at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, scavenger hunts at Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, and teacher workshops at Blanca Wetlands.

Interpretation was also a vital part of BLM Colorado's outreach efforts in 2014. The Anasazi Heritage Center engaged thousands of visitors with its many interpretive talks and displays. The staff from the Royal Gorge Field Office partnered with the Fremont County Stones 'n Bones, a local volunteer group, to create several display cases focusing on



fossils and local geology. The displays were featured at the field office as well as in local businesses in nearby communities. Among other outreach efforts, the Uncompahgre Field Office collaborated with the Montrose Public Lands Center to celebrate Smokey Bear's 70th birthday and teach fire safety to thousands of local schoolchildren.

Volunteers played an integral role in helping BLM Colorado accomplish its mission in 2014, contributing more than 193,000 hours of time worth nearly \$4.5 million. The volunteers worked on an amazing variety of projects, including assisting the BLM with the wild horse and burro program, cleaning up and building dozens of trails, and supporting the Cottonwood Grove Education Days, where 600 sixth graders learned about the culture and resources of Colorado's canyons.

BLM Colorado also offered employment opportunities to 292 youths and veterans statewide, who helped maintain recreation trails, remove invasive weeds, staff visitor areas, and restore sage-grouse habitat.

*Read on to learn more about the ways that BLM Colorado inspired young people and adults to explore, work, and play outdoors in 2014.*





## PLAY

### Kids Learn Important Boating Skills

An overnight trip on the Gunnison River can be an amazing adventure, especially under the direction of BLM Colorado's Uncompahgre Field Office river ranger crew. Diné College partnered with the BLM to offer a "Messing About in Boats" program to 25 Native American kids in the summer of 2014. Staff, interns, and youth leaders from the college led the trips down the Gunnison River. Kids learned boating, camping, and Leave No Trace skills while exploring Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. Although many of the kids had no prior swimming experience, all became familiar with basic river rescue techniques by the end of the trip. The BLM partnered with Delta, Montrose, and Ouray Counties in western Colorado to offer the program.



## LEARN

### Penitente Canyon Provides a "Fifth Day" of Learning

In Colorado's rural San Luis Valley, many schools operate on a 4-day school week to cut costs. Two inspiring teachers from Bill Metz Elementary School in Monte Vista volunteered their time to fill that "fifth day" with outdoor science learning. Cathy Armstrong and Luanne Torres first attended the "Teaching Environmental Science Naturally" workshop sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. After the workshop, the teachers took 15 students on Friday field trips around the San Luis Valley, including Penitente Canyon Recreation Area, a BLM Hands on the Land site near La Garita. Students hiked the canyon trails, identified local native trees and shrubs, and sharpened their skills in observation, reading, and analysis. The students developed some serious science skills while having fun.



## SERVE

### Volunteer Wins Research Honors

A high school intern and volunteer for the San Luis Valley Field Office designed her science fair projects to answer management questions about the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher. She compared habitat characteristics on burned versus unburned lands and occupied versus unoccupied habitat within the BLM's Simpson/McIntire property, which was recently designated as critical habitat for the bird. Based on her research, she developed strategies to manage the habitat of this endangered species. The student's science fair projects have not only helped the BLM's wildlife staff, but also helped her become a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search and earn college scholarships.



## WORK

### Curation Intern Helps Record Artifacts

The Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores preserves artifacts and records from the Four Corners area, one of the richest archaeological regions in the United States. To help manage the collections, the center established an internship program to help catalog and document archaeological artifacts from the BLM's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The internship provided broad exposure to the workings of an Interior Department curation facility and experience with the fundamentals of collections management.



# EASTERN STATES

## By the Numbers

Program Participants	114,909
Volunteer Hours	42,444
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$979,183
Youth Hires	25



In 2014, the BLM Eastern States offered many ways for the public to play, learn, serve, and work on the public lands, reaching nearly 115,000 children and adults with a variety of educational and interpretive programs.

Staff at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area near Lorton, Virginia, participated in several Take It Outside! events, providing a variety of fun outdoor activities for thousands of children and adults. At the Mason Neck Eagle Festival, the public enjoyed pony rides, bird watching, and canoeing. BLM staff partnered with the National Park Service to offer activities on watersheds and pollination at the Lotus and Water Lily Cultural Festival at the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens in Washington, DC. The BLM also hosted veterans and their families during the Meadowood American Heroes on Public Lands event, where youth had the chance to fish, climb rock walls, and play outdoor games. Kids from the Washington, DC, area enjoyed a series of camping trips at Meadowood and on segments of the Appalachian Trail, as well as outdoor activities during National Great Outdoors Day, Community Day, and Youth and Family Day.

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, a 120-acre site in Florida's Palm Beach Country, offered

opportunities for the public to walk through native and restored coastal habitats, participate in programs about the site's important role in World War II, and learn about the Native American history of the area.

At the Southeastern States District in Jackson, Mississippi, BLM staff gave presentations about the wild horse and burro program to local schoolchildren and 4-H clubs. In Mississippi and Alabama, a BLM archaeologist demonstrated Native American ways of life at cultural events. At the Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center in Danville, Alabama, the BLM sponsored a mock dig for students, allowing children to "find" artifacts and learn about archaeological techniques in the process.

Volunteers assisted BLM Eastern States staff to collect data and clean up neglected lands, contributing nearly \$980,000 in service. The BLM also hired 25 youths to archive artifacts, lead tours and answer visitor questions, and collect hydrology data for storm water management.

*Read on to learn about other ways BLM Eastern States engaged people of all ages on public lands.*





## PLAY

### **“Lonesome” Introduces Children to the Wild Horse and Burro Program**

For 70 years, the Neighborhood House of Milwaukee has helped children, families, and individuals gain self-sufficiency and realize their full potential. The Neighborhood House’s Outdoor and Environmental Education program partnered with state and federal agencies, including the BLM Northeastern States District, to teach kids about ecology, conservation, and science-based learning. During the summer of 2014, BLM employees brought a mustang named Lonesome to the Neighborhood House. Before Lonesome retired, he served with The Old Guard at Arlington



National Cemetery in Virginia. Lonesome now works with the Northeastern States District to help spread the message of the BLM’s wild horse and burro program while bringing joy to hundreds of kids and adults.



## LEARN

### **Washington-Area Youth Paddle in the Great Outdoors**

The staff at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, located 18 miles southwest of Washington, DC, coordinates BLM education efforts in the metropolitan area. One notable event in 2014 was the kickoff of Great Outdoors America Week on the Anacostia River. The BLM cosponsored the event with Wilderness Inquiry and in cooperation with the Outdoor Alliance for Kids and 25 other federal and nongovernmental partners. At Bladensburg Waterfront Park in nearby Maryland, more than 350 youths paddled in Voyageur canoes provided by the Wilderness Inquiry’s Canoemobile program, climbed rock walls with REI, learned about watersheds, and engaged in several other outdoor environmental activities.



## SERVE

### **High School Academy Offers Two Decades of Service**

Students from Jupiter High School’s Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy in Jupiter, Florida, earned the BLM’s prestigious “Making a Difference” National Volunteer Award for their outstanding volunteer service in 2014. Since 2004, students have contributed more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service—including 230 hours of environmental service every month—to Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area. Over the years, students have removed invasive plants, reintroduced native mangroves, helped construct a tidal wetland, and engaged in long-term ecological monitoring. The natural area provides a perfect site for the students to learn field techniques through the BLM’s Hands on the Land program. It is also a great place for youth to show how they can make a difference in their community.



## WORK

### **Youth Crew Inventories Wisconsin River Islands and Removes Invasive Buckthorn**

Over the past 2 years, a crew of 61 hard-working youths inventoried and protected 21 islands managed by the Northeastern States District along the Lower Wisconsin River. The crew came from Operation Fresh Start, a nonprofit organization that engages urban youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. The BLM trained the youths in plant identification, data collection, and mapping before everyone traveled in canoes from island to island to complete the 600-acre inventory. The crew later installed warbler and bat houses on Long Island and removed dense thickets of invasive buckthorn from the 184-acre Portage Island. The youth crew essentially turned the island from an impassable wilderness to an open area, making it possible for visitors to camp and enjoy the beautiful vistas of the Wisconsin River.







### By the Numbers

Program Participants	139,390
Volunteer Hours	50,846
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$1,173,017
Youth Hires	229



BLM Idaho provided a number of opportunities for youth and the general public to play, learn, serve, and work on public lands in 2014. State Fair visitors of all ages stopped by a BLM exhibit on the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Kids and families went fishing, Boy Scouts went on hikes to practice “treading lightly,” and Girl Scouts added activities from the Junior Explorer booklets, “Trekking Volcanoes”, to their adventures.

School students, homeschoolers, and campers learned about all aspects of the BLM through educational programs and presentations. BLM scientists from the Cottonwood and Challis Field Offices shared their expertise on various topics: geology, wildlife biology, and wildfire. Across Idaho, thousands of students in scores of K–12 schools learned about raptors, migratory birds, and the importance of preserving their habitats.

Some BLM experts ventured beyond formal education settings. One wildlife biologist introduced preschoolers to bats as part of the Sandpoint Library’s READY! for Kindergarten program. Another biologist taught kids

from the Benewah County 4-H Club about mammals. And the Lewiston Library hosted a BLM outdoor recreation planner, who organized a puppet show about the animals in Idaho’s wilderness.

Collegians and young adults had opportunities to learn and work on the public lands as well. BLM Idaho hired 229 young adults across the state to help with natural resource projects and gain critical field experience. At the Four Rivers Field Office, two undergraduate interns worked with BLM scientists to conduct wildlife and habitat assessments. Their goal was to support fire restoration efforts by determining which native plants would be hardy enough to compete against invasive species.

Partnerships were a crucial component of nearly all education and engagement activities in 2014. In addition to scout groups, schools, and libraries, BLM field offices partnered with national programs, such as Project Learning Tree. For example, a forester from the Coeur d’Alene District Office provided subject matter expertise for a group of teachers learning about the Project Learning Tree process.

*Read on for a sample of more ways that BLM Idaho inspired young people and adults to explore, work, and play outdoors in 2014.*





## PLAY

### Outdoor Fun Sparks Curiosity and Learning

In July of 2014, 60 northern Idaho students participated in Watchable Wildlife Nature Camps sponsored by the BLM's Coeur d'Alene District Office and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Each day, the kids participated in fun experiences featuring the kind of learning that students seldom recognize as learning. Along the many forested trails at Blue Creek Bay, young explorers sought signs of wildlife, such as tracks, bones, feathers, and fur. They identified trees and plants of northern Idaho, listened to bird songs, and learned about forest ecosystems. At Mica Bay Boater Park, campers searched for insects, fish, snails, and crawdads and learned about aquatic ecosystems. Campers spent afternoons at the North Idaho Wildlife Education Center in Coeur d'Alene, examining wildlife habitat, dissecting owl pellets, and discovering how play can lead to learning.



## LEARN

### Students Solve Environmental Challenges of the Future

What did it take for students from Gooding High School to win first and second place in the Idaho Envirothon, a statewide environmental science competition? It took days of studying, testing, and mentoring from David Freiberg, an outdoor recreation planner from the BLM Shoshone Field Office, and his wife Becky, a science teacher and Envirothon coach. Student teams tackled a real-world environmental challenge and then prepared and delivered a presentation proposing solutions. "This year it was particularly complex," says David Freiberg. "The students were asked to plan for sustainable agriculture, both ecologically and financially, while maintaining generational family farming." Former BLM Shoshone Field Manager Beth



Maclean is very proud of the Freibergs' dedication to the community's students. "Their teams have won 6 of the last 10 years they have participated in the Envirothon," says Maclean, "and we know it is making a difference in so many of the students' lives."



## SERVE

### Volunteers Build Paths to Panoramic Bruneau Canyon

Thirty-five hardy volunteers from the Idaho Trails Association and Boise REI celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act by giving back to the land. On National Trails Day, they helped the BLM stabilize the severely eroded trails in Bruneau-Jarbridge Rivers Wilderness to minimize the damage caused by wildfires from the last 2 years. Hikers can now enjoy the incredible panoramic views at Bruneau Canyon rim and more easily traverse the steep, rocky switchbacks, which plunge 1,000 feet in elevation. Such recreation opportunities are invaluable and these trail stewards contributed significantly to nearly \$1.2 million worth of volunteer labor provided throughout BLM Idaho in 2014.



## WORK

### Youth Crew Protects Wildlife

In February, the BLM's Challis Field Office staff partnered with Idaho Department of Fish and Game staff in Chilly Slough (Thousand Springs) Wetland Conservation Area to build fence jacks in preparation for the Salmon Youth Employment Program. In just 1 month, a team of three individuals from the Salmon Youth Employment Crew replaced the boundary fence with a wildlife-friendly fence to facilitate wildlife movement. Management of these wetlands helps protect wildlife and unique vegetation habitat.





# MONTANA/ DAKOTAS

## By the Numbers

Program Participants	151,273
Volunteer Hours	46,469
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$1,072,040
Youth Hires	274



The 8.3 million areas of public land throughout Montana and the Dakotas offered the public exceptional opportunities to recreate, explore history, and engage in stewardship activities in 2014. Thanks to BLM employees and partners, the public enjoyed interpretive exhibits and a wide variety of programs about nature, culture, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition at two world-class sites: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in central Montana and Pompeys Pillar National Monument east of Billings. Families and friends visited 19 watchable wildlife sites, 5 outstanding natural areas, 5 backcountry byways, and about 400 miles of special trails, including the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

In other parts of Montana, BLM rangers and volunteers offered kid games, gold panning, and tours of Garnet Ghost Town for 600 people at the Garnet Interpretive Day in June. During Outdoor Education Day, local third graders learned about archaeology, range resources, and other BLM programs from the Miles City Field Office specialists. The Lewistown Field Office participated in Central Montana

Wildfire Education Day in May, teaching fire ecology, fire suppression, and firefighter fitness to approximately 600 students and 25 teachers. At the South Dakota Field Office in Belle Fourche, BLM employees gave classroom presentations to local students on such topics as hunting safety, wildlife management, first aid, and Leave No Trace principles. To bring the wonders of archaeology into America's classrooms, the BLM trained more than 1,000 teachers nationwide on the Project Archaeology program, thanks to a partnership with Montana State University. All told, the BLM's interpretive and educational outreach efforts reached more than 151,000 citizens across the state.

Dedicated volunteers contributed nearly \$1.1 million worth of services in 2014 and helped deliver many of the BLM educational and interpretive programs. The BLM hired 274 young adults in Montana and the Dakotas to assist field offices with botanical and forestry projects, conduct recreation maintenance, and help with operations at Pompeys Pillar National Monument.

*Read on for a sample of additional ways in which BLM Montana/Dakotas engaged citizens of all ages on public lands in 2014.*





## PLAY

### Kids Reel In Fun and Prizes

First there was a nibble, then a strike, and another child was hooked on fishing! This was the theme at Kids Fishing Day 2014, a free event at Lewistown's Frog Ponds Park designed to introduce kids to the joys of fishing. Employees from the BLM Lewistown Field Office and partner organizations—Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; local chapters of Walleyes Unlimited and Trout Unlimited; and the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge—



helped kids rig the poles and reel in "the big ones." Each child who participated received a prize from a local business, including fishing poles, nets, tackle boxes, and hats. When the kids weren't fishing, they viewed demonstrations on water safety, fishing techniques, and insect identification.



## SERVE

### Wildlife Roam Safely Thanks to Volunteer Youths

The BLM asked the Montana Youth Challenge Academy to help with a project to remove a hazardous fence for wildlife. More than 60 years ago, the BLM built a fence along a portion of Rape Creek to prevent cows from overgrazing the streamside vegetation. In recent years, cattle have managed to cross through the fence, so the BLM Dillon Field Office and the grazing permittee cooperatively worked to replace it. They constructed a new fence, but were not immediately able to remove the old one, which created a trapping hazard for antelope, elk, and deer. The BLM recruited the Academy's help to fix this problem and they sent four energetic cadets to cut the old fence out, piece by piece, often while working in a flooded wetland. Over the course of only 1 day, the crew completely removed the fence and hauled the debris a half mile out to a waiting truck.



## LEARN

### Local Heritage Buffs Celebrate Archaeology Day

The BLM's Billings Field Office teamed up with Montana State Parks to host the first Archaeology Day at the BLM's Four Dances Natural Area and Pictograph Cave State Park. Around 100 visitors listened as experts shared such stories as the legend of Sacrifice Cliff, the tales of local cowboy artist and writer Will James, and the story of perseverance along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. At Pictograph Cave State Park, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964, visitors tested themselves on the atlatl (a spear-thrower) range and viewed Native American artifacts, among other activities. Partners in this event included the Crow Tribe, Project Archaeology, Montana Site Stewardship program, The Extreme History Project, and Montana Archaeological Society.



## WORK

### Protecting the Past—with Sage and Prickly Pear

In July 2014, the BLM teamed up with the U.S. Forest Service Historic Preservation Team and a Montana Conservation Corps crew to repair the cabin of Billings' local legend, Will James, an amateur outlaw and renowned author and artist. The crew worked to preserve James' legacy by stabilizing his historic cabin at Four Dances Natural Area. Staying true to the original components of the structure, the crew replaced the roof liner and resodded the roof with local vegetation, including sage, native grasses, and prickly pear cactus. They also repaired the roof, windows, and doors.





# NEVADA

## By the Numbers

Program Participants	421,726
Volunteer Hours	118,658
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$2,737,440
Youth Hires	253

Through its many outreach programs, BLM Nevada works closely with the public to meet the needs of one of the fastest growing states in the United States. In 2014, the Burning Man festival in Nevada's Black Rock Desert was the largest Leave No Trace event in the world with more than 50,000 attendees. Near the growing metropolis of Las Vegas, BLM staff and partners at the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center provided hundreds of classroom programs, teacher workshops, and public events on diverse topics such as tortoise adaptations, wild horse and burro ecology, and astronomy. To help celebrate Nevada's 150th anniversary of statehood, a team of employees developed the "Nevada Adventure Book" as part of the Junior Explorer series. This booklet features stories, activities, games, and even geocaching adventures for BLM sites all around the state. Among other things, the team also initiated the first Artist-in-Residence Program at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

In other parts of the state, the Elko District Office hosted a number of fun family events both at the California Trail Interpretive Center and on local trails. Employees also

served as science fair judges, provided guided snowshoe hikes for families and children, and conducted field trips at Lamoille Canyon. The Winnemucca Field Office conducted its annual Kids Fishing Day and partnered with the Nevada Outdoor School to offer a variety of summer camps, backpacking adventures, and stewardship projects at Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. For Earth Day 2014, staff at Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area offered a petroglyph and wildflower hike. All efforts combined, BLM Nevada provided more than 2,000 interpretive and educational programs in 2014, reaching 421,726 schoolchildren, teachers, and visitors across the state.

In other outreach efforts, volunteers contributed more than \$2.7 million in stewardship services to BLM Nevada projects and lands, including recreation trail maintenance, native seed collection, and protection of wilderness areas. The BLM hired 253 young adults in Nevada to assist with education and interpretation at several busy visitor centers, measure the effectiveness of fire recovery efforts, and remove encroaching pinyon and juniper trees as part of long-term efforts to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse.

*Following are a few of the many ways BLM Nevada enhanced the connection between the American people and the public lands.*





## PLAY

### Families Travel Back in Time during California Trail Days

The California Trail Interpretive Center, operated by the BLM near Elko, hosted its annual California Trail Days last spring. Approximately

1,200 children, families, and members of the public traveled back in time to the days of covered wagons and pioneers. They saw living history demonstrations of Pony Express riders delivering mail, blacksmiths pounding horseshoes, and trappers showing off their fur preparation and tanning skills. Participants even saw a replica Shoshone Village and learned about the lifestyles of Great Basin Native Americans. The event inspired young people, as well as adults, to appreciate and protect the nation's cultural heritage.



## LEARN

### Artist Captures the Beauty of Red Rock

The BLM Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area selected Linda Campbell for its first-ever Artist-in-Residence Program in 2014. "There will always be a special place in my heart for Red Rock," says Campbell. "Its stark beauty and endless scope resurrected a huge purpose for me to start doing fine art." After sketching and working in different media, Campbell decided to use soft pastels to capture the Calico Hills, white yucca blossoms, and "impossibly blue sky." From March through May, the BLM and the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association cohosted Campbell and two other artists to create art and give classes in

sketching and wood block printing. The public enjoyed viewing the artwork at a small exhibit at the visitor center beginning in late August. "I hope my art conveys the same awe and excitement I feel when I carve out a view, a geographical element, or a plant form to depict from all the beauty that surrounds us here."



## SERVE

### The BLM and Friends Protect Sand Dunes

The 2014 Black Rock Rendezvous was a mix of hard work, good food, and fun over the Memorial Day Weekend. The Black Rock Field Office and local volunteers teamed up at Trego Hot Springs to construct over 225 feet of fence to protect the sand dunes from motor vehicles that stray off designated routes. Another group installed metal posts to mark the Calico Wilderness boundary and help protect the area. During the evening, the BLM and volunteers treated each other to spicy camp chili, chicken curry, music, and cowboy poetry. The 3-day event continued with an interpretive tour of High Rock Canyon, a geology tour at Black Rock Point, and a history and wildlife tour at Soldier Meadows. The event was a great success, thanks to the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Friends of Black Rock-High Rock, and community volunteers.



## WORK

### Young Adults Help Hotshots Earn Fitness Award

Approximately half of the 2014 Ruby Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC) was young adults. These members added strength to an already strong group and helped the crew earn the BLM Interagency Hot Shot Crew Fitness Challenge Trophy. The hotshots competed with 10 other crews in a nationwide test and earned the highest scores for four exercises: pushups, pullups, situps, and a 1.5-mile or 3-mile run. Individual fitness is often a limiting factor in wildland firefighting. Fatigue is a contributing factor in many accidents and numerous studies show that physical fitness is a good way to mitigate fatigue. "This award is a great accomplishment for the crew and it shows that our employees are dedicated to their fitness and setting the example for the fire community," said Ruby Mountain IHC Superintendent Craig Cunningham.





# NEW MEXICO/ OKLAHOMA/TEXAS

## By the Numbers

Program Participants	185,106
Volunteer Hours	51,166
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$1,180,400
Youth Hires	181

Partnerships enabled BLM New Mexico to engage new communities and expand opportunities for youths and adults to play, learn, serve, and work on public lands in 2014. Community support for the establishment of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, which took place in May, provided a dramatic demonstration of the power of partnerships.

Through a partnership with New Mexico State University's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program, students and teachers from underserved communities took part in field trips to several national monuments. Thanks to a Department of the Interior/Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) volunteer who serves with the BLM's partner Rivers and Birds, fifth graders learned about watersheds. From water resources and wild horses to prehistoric creatures and ancestral cultures, these students connected classroom learning to the real world through BLM education programs. In addition, interpretive programs and displays at places such as El Malpais National Conservation Area helped connect visitors to the geology, culture, and ecology of the area.

Establishing connections was integral to many Take It Outside! programs as well. Youth from the Acoma Pueblo connected with their elders, culture, and public lands through a series of field trips offered by the Acoma Hiking

Club and the Grants Field Station. Rangers at El Malpais led family night walks, encouraging participants to experience the sounds and smells of the wilderness. And for the fourth year in a row, the Oklahoma Field Office and its partner, Mustang Heritage Foundation, cosponsored Camp Wildfire at several locations. Through hundreds of education and interpretation programs, BLM New Mexico reached more than 185,000 students, teachers, and visitors in 2014.

BLM New Mexico volunteers contributed service valued at nearly \$1.2 million in 2014. Off-road vehicle enthusiasts cleaned up recreation sites, while volunteers from the New Mexico SiteWatch program monitored paleontological and archaeological sites. Several National Public Lands Day events in the state were held in coordination with friend groups and other partners. Young adults working with the BLM through the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and Groundwork Doña Ana, a community organization, helped organize work projects and kid-friendly activities at several National Public Lands Day events. Young people from Pueblo de Cochiti and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument served as rangers, while interns from the Chicago Botanic Garden assisted with seed collection and vegetation inventories. Youth crews in Farmington helped with wildlife guzzlers and fence projects, while other crews in the state assisted with rangeland monitoring and trail projects. During 2014, BLM New Mexico hired 181 young adults on the payroll and through partners.

*Read on for a sample of more ways that BLM New Mexico engaged citizens of all ages in 2014.*





## PLAY

### Themed Hikes Inspire Interest in El Malpais

Kids and adults alike had numerous opportunities to explore El Malpais National Conservation Area thanks to a series of interpretive hikes offered throughout the year. Rangers, who were dressed in period costume, offered hikes to historic homesteads, checking out plants and wildlife along the way. In October, hikes to an abandoned haunted homestead offered photographers a chance to capture dramatic shots in the eerie evening light. Rangers also continued their popular Sunday morning Art Walks, leading artists and photographers to inspiring locations within the national conservation area. During summer night hikes, visitors of all ages had ample opportunities to learn about and appreciate New Mexico's largest conservation area.



## SERVE

### Riders Remove Trash from Popular Recreation Areas

Mountain bikers, off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, and other volunteers lent a hand on National Public Lands Day in the Farmington area. National Public Lands Day events were held at Alien Run Mountain Bike Trail, Glade Run Recreation Area, and Piñon Mesa Recreation Area—all popular destinations for recreationists on wheels. At Alien Run, nearly 200 volunteers collected six dumpsters full of trash, amounting to 300 cubic feet. Additional volunteers went to work at Glade Run and Piñon Mesa recreation areas, contributing 768 hours of service and collecting 294 cubic feet of trash, which included tires, refrigerators, and air conditioners.



## LEARN

### Interactive Adventures Help Children Explore the Past

Hundreds of schoolchildren in Oklahoma and Texas participated in lively, outdoor, and hands-on archaeological adventure lessons thanks to the expanded archaeological outreach by the BLM Oklahoma Field Office. Lessons focused on interactive demonstrations of prehistoric hunting techniques and archaeological site stewardship. Students developed critical thinking skills by creating their own interpretations of past lifeways through direct contact with historical artifacts. The Oklahoma Field Office's expanded partnerships in 2014



involved museums, libraries, and professional societies as well as the launch of a new partnership with Project Archaeology, the first one established in Oklahoma. In a sign of good things to come, teachers participated in a Project Archaeology workshop held in early October of 2014.



## WORK

### The "Green Team" Interprets Trackways and Other Sites

For the first time in 2014, the BLM Las Cruces District worked with Groundwork Doña Ana to organize the BLM "Green Team" to work on a variety of natural resource projects. Through a grant from the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps, the team received training and became Certified Interpretive Guides as designated by the National Association for Interpretation. Ranging in age from 16 to 21 years old, 13 youth guides led interpretive tours and conducted education outreach programs for Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, Dripping Springs Natural Area, and other district recreation sites. When the youth were not delivering programs, team members organized cleanups, worked on trails, and created kid-friendly activities, from planting seeds to identifying lizards.





# OREGON/ WASHINGTON

## By the Numbers

Program Participants	1,157,644
Volunteer Hours	111,539
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$2,573,205
Youth Hires	826



Visitors to the 16.5 million acres of BLM public lands in Oregon and Washington are welcomed by a range of climates, exceptional natural landscapes, vital wildlife habitats, and countless opportunities for engagement. Interpretive facilities throughout Oregon and Washington helped travelers understand and appreciate cultural and natural resources on the public lands in 2014. The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City showcased America's historic westward migration and the early industries of the Oregon Territory. Educational programs extending from Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area on the Oregon coast to Cascade Streamwatch near Mt. Hood allowed students and lifetime learners to experience firsthand the complex ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest.

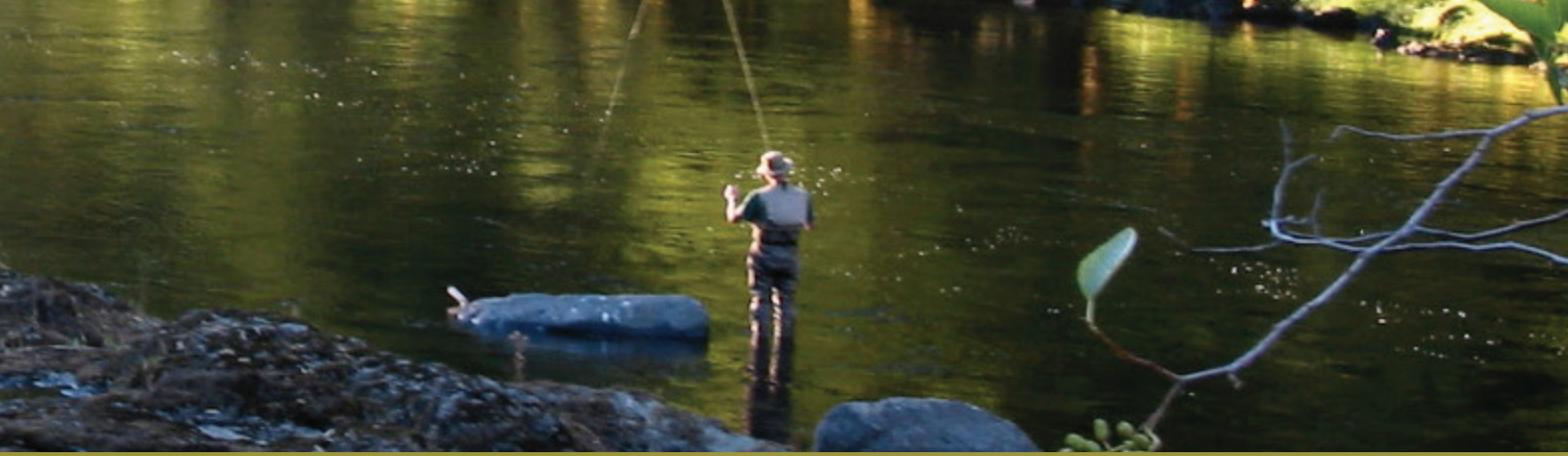
In 2014, the public benefited from over 7,500 BLM educational and interpretive programs offered in Oregon and Washington. In one program hosted by the Burns District, youth from Teens and Oregon Mustangs participated in a 3-day field study to learn about wild horse management, holding facilities, and gather operations. The Lakeview District and Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association cosponsored an elementary school poster contest to educate students about the negative effects of vandalism and littering.

Students designed posters with prevention messages, which were then displayed at BLM recreation sites. And during Salmon Watch, an annual environmental education program, urban students from the Portland-metro area learned about the importance of wild salmon conservation in watershed management. Forty teachers and more than 1,200 middle and high school students participated.

The BLM in Oregon and Washington also boasts a wide variety of programs and activities that provide a keen focus on responsible stewardship of the public lands. Working with local partners, cooperating agencies, and volunteers, the BLM seeks to ensure that Oregon and Washington's spectacular views, abundant fish and wildlife habitats, productive timberlands, functional rangelands, and healthy watersheds will thrive for generations to come. In 2014, Girl Scouts from the southwest Oregon region camped out and lent a hand at Loon Lake to remove invasive plants and clean up the recreation site before the start of the busy summer season. And the BLM Salem District partnered with Wilderness International Youth Conservation Corps to construct new campgrounds and trails in the Molalla River Recreation Area as well as remove invasive species and restore other recreation sites near Mt. Hood.

*Read on for a sample of additional ways in which BLM Oregon/Washington inspired people of all ages to explore, work, and play outdoors in 2014.*





## PLAY

### Kids Play in the Rain—and Love It!

The Eugene District Office, along with the Youth in Nature Partnership, hosted the seventh annual Play in the Rain Day, a free community event for families and youths of all ages to play outdoors, rain or shine, and connect with nature at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Play in the Rain Day activities included tree climbing, nature crafts, hikes, hayrides, campfire cookery, native plant investigations, archery, and a visit from Smokey Bear. Approximately 1,200 participants discovered how enjoyable it is to spend time in nature—rain or shine!



## LEARN

### Students “Join Hands” at San Juan Islands National Monument

In the summer of 2014, staff from the BLM’s San Juan Islands National Monument in Washington worked with the Lopez Island School District to join the BLM’s growing roster of Hands on the Land sites. In September, selected students participated in the site’s inaugural outdoor activities at Chadwick Marsh, a 35-acre pond on the south end of Lopez Island where no research or monitoring had occurred. They first worked with a BLM soil scientist to collect samples, which they then studied in

school labs to identify the soil’s organic and inorganic components. Facilitated by the San Juan Nature Institute, the program takes place 2 days a month after school hours. Students spend 1 day working at the site and the other day working in the lab. Each month’s study focuses on a particular element of marsh science, including wetlands ecology, entomology, and hydrology.



## SERVE

### Interpretation Apprentices Introduce Visitors to Sea Life

Of the 20 youths who volunteered at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in 2014, 10 served as resource education and interpretation apprentices. These youths provided 3,148 hours of service as tidepool guides, teachers, wildlife observation coaches, and interpretive center hosts. They instructed approximately 5,000 schoolchildren on class field trips to Yaquina Head and worked with visiting families throughout the summer and fall months. Yaquina Head’s volunteers provided invaluable service to the BLM and the many visitors who traveled from around the world to this beautiful site on the central Oregon coast.



## WORK

### Youth Corps Members Conserve Coos Bay



The Northwest Youth Corps and the BLM Coos Bay District cosponsored public lands projects that combined education and job skills training with outdoor adventure for youth ages 16–19. Under staff guidance, young crewmembers worked on conservation, reforestation, and recreation projects near the central Oregon coast. They also learned valuable lessons in teamwork and responsibility.

Crews then camped out in the field for several weeks, traveling from project to project across the district. Corps members completed trail maintenance and construction, fence removal, thinning, slash piling, invasive species eradication, planting, and campground maintenance projects.



# UTAH

By the Numbers	
Program Participants	511,364
Volunteer Hours	81,078
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$1,870,469
Youth Hires	162



BLM Utah worked with schools, 4-H clubs, universities, extension programs, tribes, and numerous other groups to connect people of all ages to their heritage and public lands. Scientists, recreation planners, and other BLM Utah staff participated in career and science fairs and gave presentations for scout groups and community expos. They also led volunteer projects, bird counts, hikes for college students, and all-terrain vehicle and outdoor safety sessions.

BLM Utah promoted outdoor exploration for youth and adults who “turned off media and turned on life” at Cedar City Unplugged, slept under the moon at nature camps, and trick-or-treated at a dinosaur track site. In addition, the Richfield Field Office encouraged visitors to practice Leave No Trace principles as they hunted for hidden BLM geocaches at popular recreation locations.

The Hands on the Land program enabled BLM Utah to develop educational programs at Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, Nine Mile Canyon, and Mill Canyon Dinosaur Track Site. BLM Utah also sponsored eight University of Wisconsin geology students who spent a week working at the quarry. In collaboration with local communities and teachers, BLM staff taught hundreds of students about the unique history, wildlife, botany, fire ecology, and paleontological and cultural resources of Utah’s public lands. The Hands on the Land team

also upgraded BLM Utah’s six Discovery Trunks to align with recent Utah State Office of Education and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program initiatives. In addition, the team developed a new geo-paleo trunk.

Across the state, BLM volunteers contributed more than 81,000 hours valued at nearly \$1.9 million. For example, Kanab’s annual Christmas Bird Count reached more than 5,000 youth in southern Utah, and Richfield’s Natural Resources Fair attracted another 2,500 youth and their families from Utah’s Sevier Valley.

To help build a strong future work force, BLM Utah hired 162 young adults in resource-related fields. BLM Utah’s 21st Century Conservation Service Corps youth crews included Native American and bilingual students, who completed conservation projects statewide. Through partnerships with the Public Land Corps Authority and the Pathways program, BLM Utah also hired dozens of youth interns in 2014. The BLM nominated three outstanding young people to attend the Second Biennial Student Congress and all three candidates were selected! Currently, one student is an official state youth representative, one is accomplishing a Washington Office internship, and one received her master’s degree and is on her way to a natural resources leadership career.

*Following are a few of the many ways BLM Utah enhanced the connection between the American people and the public lands.*





PLAY

### Native Youth Connect to the Land and Their Culture

BLM employees from Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, experts from Color Country, and many other partner groups assisted with the annual Camp Kwiyaumunsi and Camp Yevingkarere. Paiute elders and agency specialists teamed up to guide outdoor learning stations that introduced five bands of Paiute youth to their native language and traditional ecological knowledge, such as toolmaking, wildlife biology, and botany. Campers also hiked, played outdoor games, and listened to stories shared by the elders at night. Students especially enjoyed making



new friends and building solidarity though cultural identity and respect. The students not only came away inspired by their culture, but also excited about the bright future that awaits them via education and professional career paths.



LEARN

### Students Explore Nature and Natural Resources Careers

The BLM, Utah State University, and other partners organized a weeklong Nature High Summer Camp for 30 high school students to demonstrate how nothing beats hands-on learning in the great outdoors. During the summer camp, held at the Great Basin Environmental Education Center near Ephraim, students spent time in the field with BLM and other resource specialists applying skills and techniques in hydrology, rangeland conservation, wildlife biology, soils, and forestry. The camp encourages women



and minority students to consider careers in natural resource management by showing them the challenges and rewards of those vocations. By the end of the camp, the students described how much they enjoyed turning off their cell phones and plugging into the natural world around them.



SERVE

### Volunteer Youths Learn Critical Fieldwork Skills

BLM Utah teamed up with the National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Organization, Upper Sevier River Community Watershed Project, Latinos in Action, and state universities to recruit hundreds of high school and college-age volunteers for conservation-based service projects. Student volunteers helped



restore riparian zones by removing invasive Russian olive trees along the Sevier River and replanting the area with native willow trees. Students also signed up for hands-on fieldwork with BLM and other agency specialists who guided the recruits in scientific data-gathering techniques and mentored them during their exploration of natural resource careers.



WORK

### GeoCorps Students Dig for Dinosaur Clues

Staff at the BLM's Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry engaged the hearts and minds of bright college students through amazing fieldwork opportunities last summer. Through the GeoCorps program of the Geological Society of America, the college students carefully dug for dinosaur bones, followed strict protocols, and joined professional paleontologists in solving the quarry's scientific mysteries: how did the carcasses of so many animals end up in one place and why are most of them meat-eaters? As a result of this hands-on experience, these GeoCorps students may one day find the answer to these questions.





# WYOMING



## By the Numbers

Program Participants	365,466
Volunteer Hours	33,736
Volunteer Contributed Labor	\$778,290
Youth Hires	147



BLM Wyoming offered rich opportunities in 2014 for people to play, learn, serve, and work on the vast open spaces and unique landscapes found on public land. History buffs traveled back in time by viewing the original wagon ruts from 19th-century pioneers who discovered routes west through Wyoming. Visitors hunted for common Cretaceous plant fossils at the Big Cedar Ridge Fossil Plant Area. And they celebrated the opening of the 100-acre New Fork River Crossing Historical Park, an area where tens of thousands of emigrants stopped to rest.

At the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite in the Worland area, educational and interpretive programs enlightened visitors about the state's largest



trackway, which dates to the Middle Jurassic Period (160 million to 180 million years ago). Visitors enjoyed exploring an ancient ocean shoreline once prowled by two-legged dinosaurs weighing up to 400 pounds. Children and families loved walking in the fossilized prints of giant dinosaurs.

The BLM focused on keeping significant pieces of American history alive through educational programs offered at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper. The center, which is the first BLM Hands on the Land site in Wyoming, welcomed more than 326,000 visitors to learn about some of America's key historical trails such as the Pony Express, Oregon, and Mormon Pioneer trails. In December, the center hosted its annual Holiday on the Homestead event where visitors listened to live pioneer music, indulged in chocolate desserts, and sent notes via a telegraph. The BLM's mascot, Seymour Antelope, even made a surprise visit.

BLM Wyoming relied on volunteers and partner organizations to accomplish numerous on-the-ground projects in 2014. Volunteers worked on trails, monitored wildlife, restored rock art and riparian areas, and educated visitors—a contribution of more than \$778,000 in labor. Additionally, BLM Wyoming hired 147 youth interns and seasonal workers to help meet crucial needs such as reducing fuels for wildfires.

*Read on for a sample of additional ways in which BLM Wyoming engaged youths and adults on public lands in 2014.*





PLAY

### Cody Naturalists “Spring into Yellowstone”

The Spring into Yellowstone Birding and Wildlife Festival, an annual event in Cody, showcased the wildlife, landscapes, and ecology of the Greater Yellowstone Region. Celebrating its third year in 2014, the event welcomed more than 150 guests from 14 states and 3 countries. Resource specialists from the BLM Cody Field Office offered many different tours, including guided walks to observe sage-grouse, geologic tours to McCullough Peaks, interpretive float trips on the Shoshone River, and a nature hike to Bald Ridge—an area famous for its beauty as well as the scale and steepness of its route. Partners included nonprofit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy and government agencies including the National Park Service.



SERVE

### Citizens Advance Conservation Initiative

Former BLM Wyoming State Director Don Simpson recognized local citizens last year for their volunteer efforts to advance the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative. This is a multiagency, long-term, landscape-scale effort to assess and enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats in southwest Wyoming, while also facilitating responsible development through local partnerships. Award winners included Green River High School, which had its students collect data for 3 years to use in targeting herbicide applications to control invasive Russian olive trees. The state director also recognized the Eagle Scouts of Rock Springs Boy Scout Troop #286 for their help placing reflective markers on 24 miles of new fencing to prevent Greater Sage-Grouse from colliding with fence wires. “It is this kind of pro-active dedication,” said Simpson, “that will sustain some of Wyoming’s most valued resources and habitats.”



LEARN

### Middle School Students Discover the Great Outdoors

Thanks to the BLM Newcastle Field Office and partners, 15 students from Upton Middle School experienced the joys of the great outdoors last summer. They also gained firsthand exposure to careers in natural resource management. Through three separate weeklong programs, students learned about a wide variety of topics, including archaeology, outdoor photography, forestry, bird watching, wildlife monitoring, fire management, and outdoor ethics. For “capstone” projects, the students created ePostcards to share with their sister school at the BLM’s Prehistoric Trackways National Monument. They also prepared a short

presentation of photographs and video interviews that highlighted key program concepts. Partners of the Upton Summer Discovery Program included the Weston County School District #7, Audubon Society, Black Hills National Forest, and Wyoming Atlatl and Social Club.



WORK

### College Students Gather Critical Data for Fire Program

In 2014, students from Central Wyoming College surveyed 800 acres of land, providing the BLM with valuable information for a multiple-year fire fuels reduction project. The initiative, called the Native American Youth Project, resulted from a cooperative agreement between the Casper Field Office and the college’s Archaeological Field School. Prior to the fieldwork, the 12 students learned how to use global positioning system technology as well as geographic information systems. The Archaeological Field School has a proven record of success: a number of students have won awards at professional conferences and have continued their education to obtain bachelor’s and graduate degrees.





# APPENDIX

## LEARN

### BLM Hands on the Land Program, FY 2014

State Office	Number of Sites Reported	Number of Participants
Alaska	3	11,912
Arizona	3	1,012
California	11	13,263
Colorado	8	1,920
Eastern States	2	3,872
Idaho	2	320
Montana/Dakotas	3	3,379
Nevada	2	9,739
New Mexico/Oklahoma/Texas	5	2,747
Oregon/Washington	6	10,632
Utah	4	949
Wyoming	5	858
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60,603</b>

### Project Archaeology, FY 2014

State	Educators Certified	K-12 Direct Instruction	Other Instruction
Arizona	16	0	0
California	7	583	144
Colorado	67	150	15
Florida	202	410	0
Illinois	39	450	0
Iowa	36	100	0
Kansas	34	1,599	69
Kentucky	153	3,964	45
Missouri	40	625	25
Montana	15	1,619	100
New Hampshire	1	0	0
New Mexico	31	24	0
North Carolina	0	350	0
Oklahoma	8	120	60
Tennessee	25	200	0
Utah	4	850	26
Vermont	8	0	75
Wisconsin	25	0	0
Wyoming	0	17	0
National	375	195	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>11,256</b>	<b>570</b>

### Additional BLM Education Programs, FY 2014\*

State Office	Number of Participants
Alaska	766
Arizona	4,331
California	2,574
Colorado	5,442
Eastern States	530
Idaho	65,759
Montana/Dakotas	3,121
Nevada	19,327
New Mexico/Oklahoma/Texas	2,841
Oregon/Washington	19,404
Utah	167
Wyoming	3,918
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,180</b>

\*Does not include Hands on the Land Programs, which are reported separately.

### BLM Sites Offering Interpretive Programs, FY 2014

State Office	Number of Sites Reported	Number of Visitors
Alaska	6	201,738
Arizona	20	118,312
California	20	778,101
Colorado	16	419,349
Eastern States	4	86,376
Idaho	16	59,067
Montana/Dakotas	15	141,422
Nevada	7	390,998
New Mexico/Oklahoma/Texas	16	178,849
Oregon/Washington	13	1,107,667
Utah	15	500,045
Wyoming	12	356,492
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>4,338,416</b>



## National Volunteer Total Hours and Value of Work for FY 2014

Program	Volunteer Hours	Donated/ Hosted Work Hours	Total Hours
Recreation	373,462	72,689	446,151
Biological Resources	64,191	46,540	110,731
Wild Horse and Burro	19,465	97,500	116,965
Cadastral Survey	1,659	279	1,938
Wilderness/Wilderness Study Area	39,384	3,466	42,850
Riparian/Watershed	10,956	68,298	79,254
Cultural/Historical	93,588	23,277	116,865
Minerals	3,405	8	3,413
Support Services	68,729	18,837	87,566
Environmental Education/ Interpretation	82,350	14,962	97,312
Other	79,865	24,504	104,369
<b>Total</b>	<b>837,054</b>	<b>370,360</b>	<b>1,207,414</b>
<b>Funds Expended</b>	<b>\$531,356</b>	<b>\$1,058,362</b>	<b>\$1,589,718</b>
<b>Value of Work**</b>	<b>\$19,310,836</b>	<b>\$8,544,205</b>	<b>\$27,855,041</b>

\*The term "volunteer" as used in this report includes donated workers. Volunteers do not receive pay for their service to the BLM. They donate their time, and in some instances, equipment and money to assist the BLM with a variety of tasks. Donated or hosted workers, by contrast, receive compensation from another organization but work for the BLM at no charge.

\*\*Value based on 2014 Independent Sector value of volunteer time (\$23.07 per hour).

## BLM Take It Outside! Program, FY 2014

State Office	Number of Participants
Alaska	2,166
Arizona	267
California	10,225
Colorado	2,982
Eastern States	15,656
Idaho	14,244
Montana/Dakotas	1,617
Nevada	1,662
New Mexico/ Oklahoma/Texas	426
Oregon/ Washington	19,941
Utah	9,323
Wyoming	4,181
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,690</b>

## Summary of BLM State Office Volunteer Contributions for FY 2014

State Office	Hours	Value*	Work Years**	Number of Individuals
Alaska	80,718	\$1,862,164	44.8	5042
Arizona	155,466	\$3,586,601	86.4	1399
California	238,812	\$5,509,393	132.7	9734
Colorado	193,191	\$4,456,916	107.3	4897
Eastern States	42,444	\$979,183	23.6	1369
Idaho	50,846	\$1,173,017	28.2	1344
Montana/Dakotas	46,469	\$1,072,040	25.8	824
Nevada	118,658	\$2,737,440	65.9	914
New Mexico/ Oklahoma/Texas	51,166	\$1,180,400	28.4	1576
Oregon/Washington	111,539	\$2,573,205	62.0	2330
Utah	81,078	\$1,870,469	45.0	1721
Wyoming	33,736	\$778,290	18.7	1157
National Interagency Fire Center	185	\$4,268	0.1	3
National Training Center	258	\$5,952	0.1	12
Washington Office	2,848	\$65,703	1.6	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,207,414</b>	<b>\$27,855,041</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>32,339</b>

\*Value based on 2014 Independent Sector value of volunteer time (\$23.07 per hour).

\*\*One work year is based on 1,800 work hours.

## Payroll and Partner Youth Hires, FY 2014\*

State Office	BLM	Partner	Total
Alaska	59	139	198
Arizona	27	97	124
California	148	227	375
Colorado	64	228	292
Eastern States	11	14	25
Idaho	191	38	229
Fire and Aviation	8	0	8
Montana/Dakotas	121	153	274
Nevada	143	110	253
New Mexico/ Oklahoma/Texas	88	93	181
Oregon/Washington	250	576	826
Utah	84	78	162
Wyoming	115	32	147
Washington Office	27	3	30
National Operations Center	14	2	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>3,140</b>

\*Totals reflect FY 2014 metrics (youth ages 15–25).



The BLM would like to thank its partners for helping to connect visitors, especially young people, to the natural world and inspiring them to play, learn, serve, and work outdoors.

